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years' experience could be studied, receives "great praise for early leadership" (p. 300), and two pages. Yet even the two pages are not the author's digest of thorough study; they are "a summary . . . received through the courtesy" of the consul-general of Hamburg, "under date of August 28, 1911" and "given in full." Thus Goethe's birthday is celebrated, but the consul's summary is at least gravely in error when it holds that insurance is not compulsory for persons earning over \$476. "Un-American, unnecessary and well-nigh foolish" (p. 330) would be an insurance system, chiefly because of the "withdrawal of this immense sum from the capital of the country, needed in its industrial development and welfare" (p. 330), a withdrawal quite as disastrous, no doubt, as that of the four billion dollars and more locked away (presumably) at this moment by our savings banks. German experience, if not economic logic, might have steered the author past this rock. His bibliography includes no foreign titles; yet, within the last three years, at least three good descriptions of the German scheme have appeared conveniently in English.

It is a pity that a book whose general spirit is so admirable should fail grievously through biased preparation and loose economic thinking.

ROBERT F. FOERSTER.

Harvard University.

The Record of a City. A Social Survey of Lowell, Massachusetts.

By GEORGE F. KENNGOTT. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912. Pp. xiv, 256. \$3.00.)

In this volume is given both a history of the city and a record of its present condition and activities. A study is made of the nationality and vital statistics of the population as constituted in 1900. Then follow chapters devoted to the housing of the working population and the health and standard of living of the people. An immense amount of work has been done upon these chapters. It is doubtful whether the crude death-rate gives an accurate picture of the healthfulness of the different nationalities and whether the question of a standard of living can be adequately discussed from less than three hundred family budgets collected for a week. There are chapters upon the industrial condition, the social institutions, and the recreations of the people. The work

for the most part seems to have been carefully done and Lowell is fortunate in having such a complete record of its activities.

W. B. B.

National Housing Association. Proceedings of the First National Housing Conference held in New York, June 3, 5 and 6, 1911. Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science in the City of New York, Vol. II, No. 3. (New York. 1912. Pp. viii, 236.)

The subjects of this collection of papers, concise and practical especially on the sanitary side of the housing problem, indicate fairly the range of the discussion. The opening address on A Housing Program, by Lawrence Veiller, is followed by special articles upon sanitary inspection, alleys, privy vaults, garbage and rubbish, the problems of the small house, the housing conditions of small towns, housing reform through legislation, law enforcement, and the tenant's responsibility, each prepared either by city health officials or prominent officers of private associations concerned with housing reform. The discussion following each paper is recorded and is frequently illuminating.

The "Proceedings" contain no contribution to economic or social science. Except for a comprehensive address on City Planning and Housing, by Frederick Law Olmsted, the larger aspects of the housing problem are neglected. There is no consideration of the relation of the problem to taxation, land values, land ownership, credit systems, transit improvement, co-partnership of tenants, the decentralization of industry, or experimentation in the materials and forms of construction. The chief value of the volume lies in the spirited treatment of practical and urgent sanitary problems by men and women actively interested in health conditions and health legislation and its enforcement.

J. FORD.

Harvard University.

Penal Servitude. By E. STAGG WHITIN. (New York: National Committee on Prison Labor. 1912. Pp. iii, 162, viii. \$1.50.)

While the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology is making available in English the best modern treatises on criminal science by Continental psychologists, philosophers, psychiatrists, and students of criminal law, it is important that there should be